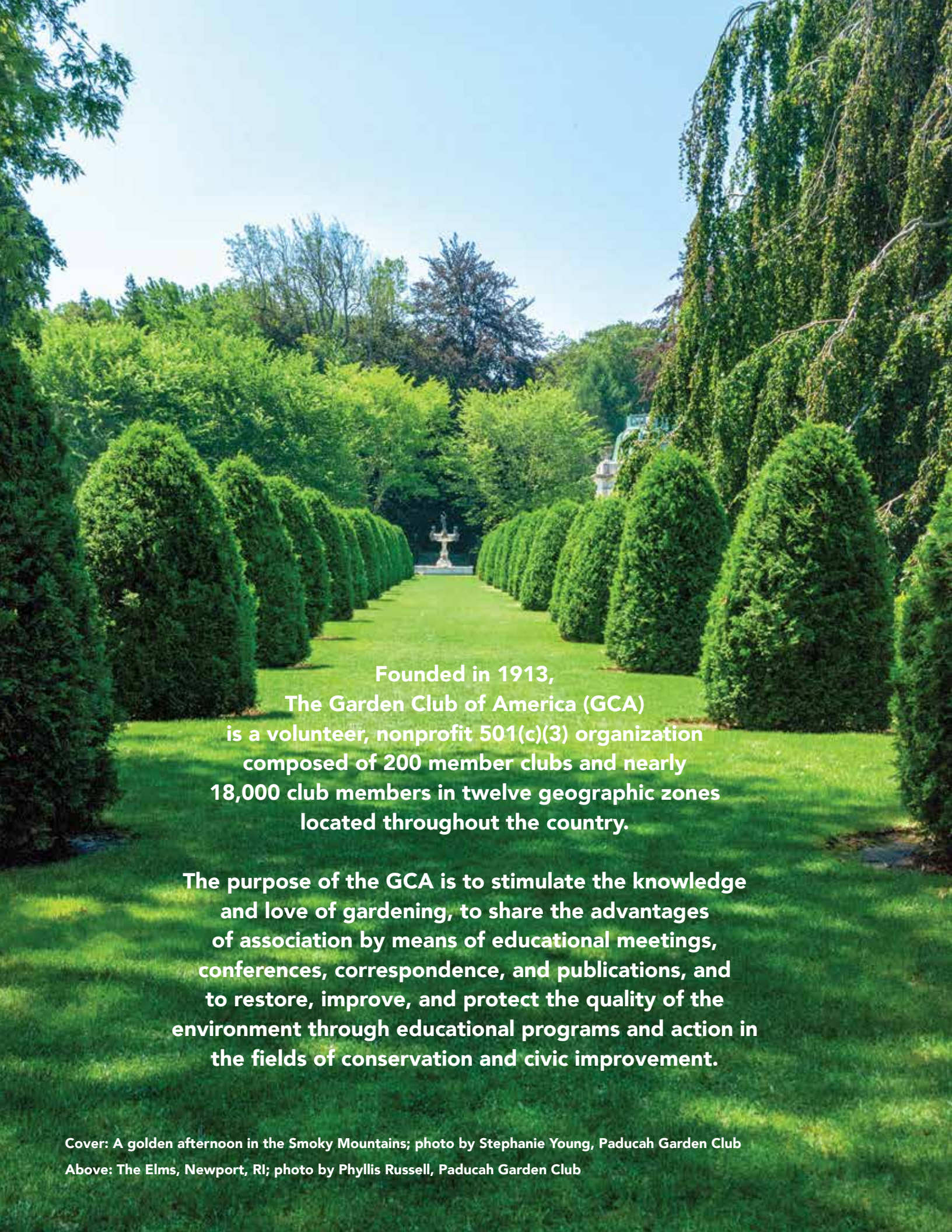
The Garden Club of America
2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**Founded in 1913,
The Garden Club of America (GCA)
is a volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization
composed of 200 member clubs and nearly
18,000 club members in twelve geographic zones
located throughout the country.**

**The purpose of the GCA is to stimulate the knowledge
and love of gardening, to share the advantages
of association by means of educational meetings,
conferences, correspondence, and publications, and
to restore, improve, and protect the quality of the
environment through educational programs and action in
the fields of conservation and civic improvement.**

Cover: A golden afternoon in the Smoky Mountains; photo by Stephanie Young, Paducah Garden Club

Above: The Elms, Newport, RI; photo by Phyllis Russell, Paducah Garden Club

Promoting the Power of Plants for Over 100 Years

From the President

The cultural and environmental headwinds are strong. We all know:

- The child who spends more time indoors than outside
- The average citizen who is able to identify more brand names and logos than native plants

That's why the work of The Garden Club of America — at the local and national level — is needed now more than ever. In 2017-2018, the GCA redoubled its efforts to restore, improve, and protect the environment across the country. We've staked out a leading role through innovative efforts in gardening, horticulture, and the creative arts; conservation and environmental advocacy; education and leadership; and civic improvement and restoration.

In 2017, the GCA stepped up to national environmental challenges. Faced with the increasing incidence of severe storms and a changing climate, we announced a new Restoration Initiative offering clubs around the country grants for restoration of gardens and landscapes destroyed by natural disasters. Five clubs, spanning both coasts, received $10,000 each for their urgent restoration efforts.

In 2017-2018, we reaffirmed our role as a powerful voice for plants. No less than the *Wall Street Journal* featured the GCA's issues in a front-page story, bemoaning the lack of plant scientists and showcasing two bills, HR 1054 and Senate Bill 3240 which the GCA has helped shape, to promote the hiring of botanists on public lands.

We continued our work to protect pollinators — planting milkweed and opposing neonics. We supported 60 active Partners for Plants projects across the country, supplying volunteers and botanical expertise to help local and national parks address the scourge of invasive plants.

We raised our voice as a prominent national advocate for historic preservation, testifying before the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Thanks to members and friends of the GCA, we were able to fund more than $300,000 in scholarships. We distributed $50,000 in Founders Fund grants for community projects focused on underserved communities. We convened a national legislative conference with prominent leaders from both the Legislative and Executive Branches. And we educated the public through 28 outstanding flower shows across the country.

Restoration Initiative in action: members of The Garden Club of Houston replant boxwoods at the Mercer Botanic Gardens

We also entered into collaborations to advance our purpose statement. In 2017-2018, we strengthened our relationship with the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens, the National Audubon Society, and the National Parks Service. We participated in Seed Your Future, a national movement to create a pipeline of horticulturalists and youth interested in the power of plants.

Close to home, the board, and the superb GCA staff have been working hard to streamline programmatic efforts under the mantra — *make it simpler, make it better*. We have launched and supported committees focused on Strategic Planning, Sales and Merchandise, and the Second Century Campaign to secure the GCA's financial future. With an eye to the future, we have actively embraced ways to grow the organization, while maintaining high standards, and reached out to the Board of Associates for their input and engagement.

And we have focused on serving our clubs — improving communications internally and externally through online publications, videos, PowerPoint summaries, workshop reports, and regular board updates. We supplied concise and readable resources for club presidents and new members. We have revamped our public webpage, providing a dynamic array of stories about national and local news. And we instituted "On the Road with the GCA," an educational program designed to share the GCA's resources with all club members.

In the next few pages, you will see reflected the immense energy, intelligence, and creativity of the 200 clubs and nearly 18,000 club members around the country. In so many ways, the GCA national organization magnifies and expands local efforts, allowing clubs to share great ideas that produce a real and tangible impact around the country.

Warm best wishes,

Dede Petri

Anne "Dede" Neal Petri, President

GCA BY THE NUMBERS 2017-2018

WHO WE ARE

200 member clubs in **40 states** and the **District of Columbia**

17,500+ club members

80 honorary members

8 international courtesy clubs

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

President: Dede Petri, Georgetown GC, Zone VI

First Vice President: Debbie Edwards, GC of New Haven, Zone II

Chief Operating Officer: Jennifer Barnette and 8 HQ staff

Executive Board: composed of 11 officers and 1 zone director

12 geographical zones and their 36 zone leaders

400+ club members serving at the GCA national level

22 national and special committees providing resources for clubs

6 standing and supporting committees providing organizational support

4.5 MM operating revenue: composed of member dues, annualized investment income, registration fees, and contributions

$31.8 MM investment portfolio: includes 30+ designated funds

WHAT WE DO

28 merit-based scholarships and fellowships $308,400 awarded to 65 scholars in 2018

8 Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Awards presented in 2018 for inspirational environmental education of children; 131 national award winners since 1993

88 Founders Fund projects in communities across the country; $50,000 awarded to 3 new projects in 2018

60 Partners for Plants projects conserving national, state, and local public lands throughout the US; 534 projects since 1992

65 Freeman Medal awards recognizing underutilized North American native plants; 24 winners since 1995

Library with 3,454 books on topics relating to the GCA's purpose

Archives with extensive GCA histories and materials

3 annual national conferences:
- GCA Annual Meeting
- National Affairs and Legislation Conference
- Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference

12 annual or biennial zone meetings or mini-meetings

28 GCA flower shows including 2 major shows

560+ approved judges in floral design, horticulture, and photography

900+ club, zone, and national awards/commendations presented last year

Restoration grants awarded to clubs for projects in communities devastated by natural disasters; $50,000 allocated in 2018

Educational workshops in floral design, horticulture, conservation, and photography

4,788 gardens documented to date for the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens

2 domestic and 2 international Visiting Gardens trips annually

9 GCA Position Papers on public policy issues: Clean Air; Clean Water; Climate Change Action; National Parks; National Public Lands; Native Plants; Sustainable Agriculture, Seed Diversity, and Food Security; Transportation; and Waste Management

7 publications:
- *Bulletin*
- *By Design*
- *ConWatch*
- *eNews*
- *Focus*
- *Legislative Update*
- *The Real Dirt*

Mantle Rock Nature Preserve, KY

PART ONE

Gardening, Horticulture, and the Creative Arts

At the heart of the GCA exists a passion for plants. Whether simply scattering zinnia seeds each spring, tending to formal gardens, or lovingly dividing and sharing perennials, an appreciation for gardening and horticulture ties together the GCA's nearly 18,000 club members. True to our purpose statement, GCA members are dedicated to stimulating the knowledge and love of gardening.

PROMOTING NATIVE PLANTS

Since its founding in 1913, The Garden Club of America has been dedicated to stimulating the knowledge and love of gardening. Members around the country are taking action to promote native plants and preserve diverse habitats — through hands on work and horticultural education. The Center for Plant Conservation recently reported that 30% of native plant flora in the U.S. are threatened. Without intervention, many of these plants may go extinct. And the GCA is one of a handful of organizations across the country focused on saving them.

> "[The Garden Club of America has] become one of the most influential conservation organizations in the country, advocating for plants and supporting efforts which advance the research and conservation of plants."
>
> Center for Plant Conservation, *Saving Plants*, January 2018

Members know that native plants are vital for a healthy ecosystem. Their extensive root systems control erosion, moderate floods, filter water to improve water quality, and sequester carbon. They provide food, habitat, and protection for pollinators and wildlife. In addition, they supply an important genetic record for future food, agriculture, and plant-derived products.

Clubs across the country are championing conscientious gardening — and the use of native plants.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES:

On the East Coast, **North Shore GC of Massachusetts** collaborated with local schoolchildren to create native plant seed balls. These balls were then launched into local conservation areas to paint the landscape with colorful and pollinator-friendly plants.

Members of New Jersey's **Garden Club of Madison** planted mountain mint seedlings, friendly to native pollinators. Mountain mint, the GCA's 2018 Plant of the Year, has numerous environmental benefits. To learn more, see Plant of the Year.

Guilford Garden Club in Baltimore held its annual Native Plant Sale sharing expertise and experience with the community. Profits benefited additional native plantings at Lake Roland Nature Center.

In Ohio, **Garden Club of Cleveland** members learned which native trees provide maximum environmental services, identifying those able to adapt, prevent erosion, and help remove pollutants from the air.

And on the West Coast, **The Portland Garden Club** began with the basics: soil. Members explored the ancient partnership between plants and the living, breathing ecosystem under their feet.

SHOWCASING WORTHY NATIVE PLANTS: PLANT OF THE YEAR AWARD

Since 1995, the GCA has also fostered native plants through a unique national prize, the **Freeman Medal** or Plant of the Year, recognizing underutilized but highly worthy native perennials, vines, ground covers, shrubs, and native trees.

Pycnanthemum muticum was named the 2018 Plant of the Year. Commonly known as mountain mint, it is a native perennial that attracts an abundance of beneficial insects. The pollinator magnet is an excellent source of nectar but also attracts predatory and/or parasitoid insects that prey upon pest insects.

Pycnanthemum muticum grows in full sun, partial shade, both drought and wet conditions, and helps with erosion control. It is resistant to diseases, insects, deer, rabbits, and rodents, and happily grows from Maine to Michigan and south to Florida and Texas, USDA Zones 4-8.

SAVING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

The plight of the monarch butterfly has been a front-page story for some time. And the GCA and its clubs are on the front lines when it comes to saving this important pollinator.

While not yet on the endangered species list, monarch populations have decreased dramatically over the last two decades. Shrinking breeding grounds and pesticides kill milkweed, the monarchs' nectar and food source, and compromise these beautiful pollinators.

Faced with this dilemma, the GCA took a multi-pronged approach — enlisting its Horticulture, Conservation, and Scholarship committees to promote the planting of milkweed and healthy butterfly habitats. Clubs and club members were encouraged to plant local species of milkweed and to educate the community about monarchs and pollinators. In only a few short years, the *New York Times* reported that monarch habitats had revived.

In a tragic tale, however, many consumers learned that milkweed they had planted had been infused with pesticides, known as neonics, actually killing the pollinators, rather than sustaining them. The GCA sprang into action, calling on club members to stop buying such products and to tell home stores to end their sale or label them. At the same time, the Board, along with the NAL and Conservation committees wrote to the EPA and the Agriculture Department, expressing alarm at neonic-infused plants and urging the agencies to remove neonics from horticultural use.

The GCA and its clubs are dedicated to monarch preservation. In 2017-2018, clubs focused on pollinator action and education around the country.

In New York, **Garden Club of Irvington-on-Hudson** members focused on the loss of monarch habitat. **Cedar Rapids Garden Club** took a field trip to a monarch butterfly eesearch center.

New York's **Southampton Garden Club** shared seeds from pollinator-friendly plants, nurtured them, and then planted them outside. GCA members at the Zone II Meeting in New Canaan, CT, participated in a butterfly release.

Kanawha Garden Club partnered with the city of Charleston, WV, to install a monarch waystation along a local walking trail.

In Kentucky, **Paducah Garden Club** members worked with local elementary school students to plan and certify Clark Elementary's monarch waystation.

The members of **Alamo Heights - Terrell Hills Garden Club**, in San Antonio, TX, spawned monarch waystations at three elementary schools. Club members prepared butterfly kits for students whose classrooms helped "hatch" butterflies for release.

PROMOTING NATIVE PLANT STUDIES: MONTINE M. FREEMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Ms. Merriken, Freeman Scholar

In support of native plants, the GCA inaugurated a new scholarship, the Freeman Scholarship in Native Plant Studies, to encourage the understanding and use of underutilized native plants. The award, presented for the first time in 2017, encourages the development of research, documentation, and teaching skills in the field of horticulture.

Ms. Angela Merriken, a student at St. Louis Community College, Meramec, and Dr. Uma Venkatesh, a post-doctoral scholar at Pennsylvania State University, received awards.

Merriken's research is focused on propagation of threatened plants in the Ozark Plateau Garden at Shaw Nature Reserve. Venkatesh is analyzing large-scale genetic data from the university arboretum collection of over 1,200 species of native and naturalized plants.

PROMOTING PROPAGATION AND SEED SHARE

Propagation and Seed Share is a rapidly growing initiative that supports club propagation efforts and promotes the love of gardens and plants.

The project enables members of GCA clubs to share native seeds and stories of how they propagate with other members across the country. Members receive propagation, seed collection, and storage guidelines; downloadable seed envelope labels; and a short how-to video explaining the seed collection process.

The GCA Seed Share database currently lists over 40 varieties of seeds collected by members, ready to mail to GCA plant enthusiasts.

Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference attendees explore prairie wildflowers in Omaha, NE

ADVANCING HORTICULTURE EDUCATION

In keeping with its purpose, The Garden Club of America promotes horticulture education to inspire its members and the public. One of the keynote programs is the annual Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference.

In September 2017, representatives from 200 GCA clubs gathered for the three-day conference in Omaha, NE. Delegates from across the country convened to expand their horticultural skills and knowledge.

Attendees, many who had never seen a prairie, learned of the "Jewels of the Plains" with excursions to the Henry Doorly Zoo, the Durham Museum, Glacier Creek Preserve, and Lauritzen Gardens. In what surely registers as a first, delegates watched specially trained dogs "sniffing out" native plants in the Glacier Creek Preserve.

Speakers included Michael Forsberg, conservation photographer; Diane Ott Whealy, co-founder of the Seed Savers Exchange; Spencer E. Crews, the executive director of Lauritzen Gardens; and Aimee Hurt, a founder of Working Dogs for Conservation.

ELEANOR WELLER READE
As part of the Wednesday lecture series at GCA Headquarters, GCA club member Eleanor Weller Reade, Garden Club of Twenty, MD, regaled attendees about the creation of the GCA Collection in the Archives of American Gardens. Through monthly garden articles and educational programs, the GCA educates its members on garden design and garden documentation, highlighting the diverse landscapes that define our country.

PROMOTING HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND GARDEN HISTORY & DESIGN

For over 25 years, the GCA has been a national leader in preserving America's garden history. Through its work with the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens, the GCA's Garden History & Design Committee helps preserve the visual record and collective narrative of gardens. Each year, GCA volunteers document and submit extensive garden records to the Smithsonian for inclusion in the collection.

In 1987, the GCA donated its unique slide library of notable American parks and gardens to the Smithsonian including nearly 3,000 hand-colored glass lantern slides dating from the 1920s and 1930s, along with approximately 37,000 35 mm slide images. These form the core of the Archives collection, one of the finest landscape history collections in the country, used for research by scholars and the public.

The collection now holds thousands of images and records, documenting 4,788 historic and contemporary American gardens. In a first, in 2017, the Smithsonian accepted records of Riverview Ranch, the inaugural Wyoming garden in the GCA Collection. The 325-acre ranch includes pastures, hayfields, a conservation area, and a homestead near the Snake River. The GCA also now meets annually with the Smithsonian to help select and fund a scholar in Garden History & Design who works in the Archives collection.

Wagon Wheel Kitchen Garden at Riverview Ranch, WY

Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, The Garden Club of America Collection. Stacy Bass, photographer

CULTIVATING AMERICA'S GARDENS NATIONAL EXHIBIT

In 2017-2018, the GCA's work with the Smithsonian received special attention in an exhibit at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

Called "Cultivating America's Gardens," the exhibit ran for 15 months through August 2018, and explored America's garden-making and how it has evolved over time. Gardening for Science, Gardening to Impress, Gardening for the Common Good, and Gardening as a Link to the Past were themes, featuring historic and contemporary books, trade catalogs, images, and artifacts.

CROWDSOURCING OF MYSTERY GARDENS

In 2017, in collaboration with the Smithsonian, the Garden History and Design Committee also inaugurated two monthly news features for the public: 1) insights on garden history and design and 2) mystery gardens. Each month a new mystery garden is featured on the GCA's website, seeking the public's assistance in identification.

In the 1980s, tens of thousands of garden images were collected by GCA club members, many lacking identification and still a mystery to researchers. Those images were subsequently donated to the Smithsonian. Through crowd-sourcing, the GCA is enlisting the help of its members and the public to rescue unidentified gardens and their histories from oblivion.

THE GCA'S ARCHIVES

Speaking of history, the GCA's own history continues to be a topic of interest for researchers and scholars around the country. The GCA's archives, located at the GCA HQ in NYC, consist of historical information dating to its founding in 1913, including files on member clubs, founding members, annual meetings, and other topics. Outside researchers and scholars regularly seek information, and 2017-2018 was no exception. The archivist and team fielded questions on topics ranging from Beatrix Jones Farrand to the GCA Redwood Grove.

Regaleira in Sintra, Portugal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Photo by John Bermel

VISITING GARDENS AND BOA TRIPS

The GCA's Visiting Garden trips educate members in garden history and design, horticulture, and the environment.

In 2017-2018, the GCA offered two domestic and two international trips, accommodating over 100 travelers, and focusing on local history, culture, architecture, beautiful gardens, and camaraderie. Travelers visited Santa Fe, Dallas-Fort Worth, Sweden, and New Zealand.

Members of the Board of Associates — GCA club members who have served in senior leadership positions — traveled to St. Louis and Long Island. In St. Louis, they met with Jim Cocos, senior manager, Horticulture, and Derek Lyle, senior manager, Nursery, of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Long Island highlights included visits to Russell Page, William Manning, and Frederick Law Olmsted gardens and parks.

ON THE ROAD WITH THE GCA

In 2017-2018, the GCA also launched a new educational program for all club members — On the Road with the GCA. The program offers an array of trips, in locations across the country, designed to introduce club members, new and old, to the work of the organization. In its inaugural year, the program explored:

- Central Park with Sara Cedar Miller, Central Park historian and photographer
- The Arnold Arboretum with Director, William (Ned) Friedman
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin, TX, with Center Director, Patrick Newman, and Lucy Baines Johnson
- GCA supporting organization, Casey Trees, with Executive Director, Mark Buscaino
- The Environmental Film Festival with GCA club member and founder Flo Stone
- The Archives of American Gardens with Director of Smithsonian Gardens, Barbara Faust
- The Highline designer and GCA scholarship recipient, Lisa Switkin
- Audubon and "Feathers: Fashion and the Fight for Wildlife" exhibits at the New York Historical Society with curator, Roberta Olson, and National Audubon Society Vice President for Audience Engagement, Elizabeth Sorrell
- The Chicago Botanic Garden with Director, Jean Franczyk, and plant scientist Kay Havens

PART TWO

Conservation and Environmental Advocacy

For more than 100 years, the GCA has been in the forefront of conservation education and advocacy, and 2017-2018 was no exception. At the local and national level, the GCA's 200 garden clubs advocated for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet and worked to advance issue-based policy and legislative solutions.

ADVANCING THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANT SCIENTISTS

"The U.S. is running short of people who can tell the forest from the trees. Organizations such as the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management can't find enough scientists to deal with invasive plants, wildfire reforestation and basic land-management issues." — the *Wall Street Journal*, August 14, 2018

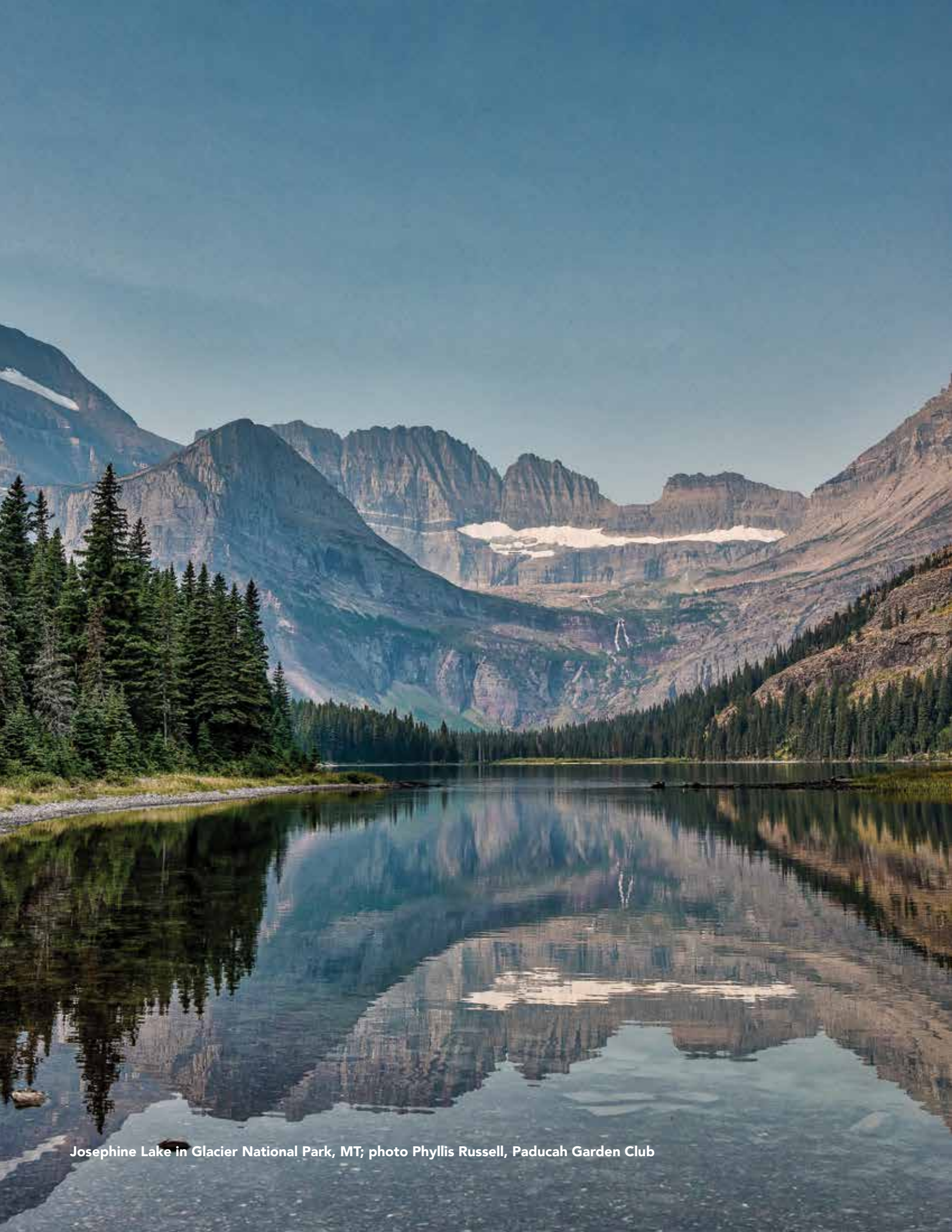
Today, endangered plants far outnumber endangered animals. Invasives are pushing out native species and healthy ecosystems are under siege. Yet plants rarely make the headlines. The public more readily focuses on birds and mammals than it does on the endangered orchid or pitcher plant.

That's why The Garden Club of America worked diligently in 2018 to be a voice for plants. The GCA is among a relatively small group of organizations across the country that focus on native plants and the urgent need for plant scientists to help ensure a healthy planet.

The GCA's concerns made front-page news when the *Wall Street Journal* published an article, *"A Rose by Any Other Name Might Just Be a Rhododendron,"* quoting the GCA's friends and experts at the Arnold Arboretum and Chicago Botanic Garden, on the problem posed by a dearth of plant scientists.

The GCA first took up the cause in the late 80s and early 90s. In 1998, Jane Henley, then chairman of the National Affairs and Legislation Committee, appeared before the House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations, noting that the GCA's efforts to monitor, propagate, and protect plants at risk were being severely hindered by the lack of botanists in the federal workforce.

The problem continues. That's why, in 2016 and 2017, the Conservation and NAL committees decided again to take up the gauntlet, helping to shape legislation to ensure more botanists on public lands. Called the Botanical Sciences & Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration and Promotion Act, and duly noted by the



Josephine Lake in Glacier National Park, MT; photo Phyllis Russell, Paducah Garden Club

Wall Street Journal article, the so-called Botany Bills were sponsored by members of Congress in both Houses and on both sides of the party line.

The Center for Plant Conservation, the Chicago Botanic Garden, and 70 other horticultural and conservation organizations have joined the GCA in support of this legislation.

The bills (H.R. 1054 and S. 3240) would foster a supply of plant scientists as well as botanical research and the employment of botanists on public lands. By simultaneously promoting a preference for native plant materials, they would help achieve another GCA goal — saving native pollinators which rely on native plants. An understanding of ecology and the critical importance of native plants is essential to the future health of the American landscape and cost-effective management. Massive forest fires, erosion, and invasives on public lands are making the GCA's campaign more and more critical.

PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS: PARTNERS FOR PLANTS

Effective land management is also the focus of the GCA's Partners for Plants (P4P) program which connects GCA clubs with land managers on federal, state, local, and other significant public lands. For over two decades, members have been hands-on, monitoring rare plants, restoring habitats, removing invasive weeds and funding botanists to advise their work. The program was launched back in 1992.

In 2018, there were 60 active P4P projects in 29 states — 13 new, coast to coast.

Since the program was launched, there have been 534 unique projects reflecting the needs of individual clubs and their communities. Clubs are eligible to receive grants totaling $6,000 over three years to support their work.

In California, the Woodside-Atherton Garden Club has committed to Save the Bay. Over the past five years, club members have planted and irrigated new native plants and have removed non-native weeds. Native plant cover has grown from 43% to 66.5% since 2016, and non-native plant cover has decreased from 41.7% to 29.6% over the same period.

At Bear Mountain State Park in New York, members of the Garden Club of Orange and Dutchess Counties have made strides in fostering local flora and fauna at the park's Trailside Museums site. Amending soil, removing invasive plants, and planting native shrubs and perennials have extended the flowering season. A thicket garden, once overrun with non-native invasives, is now a pantry for birds, insects, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Given the rising profile of the GCA's projects, GCA club member and Weed Wrangle® Founder Cayce McAlister appeared at several national conferences on invasive species management to feature the GCA's work.

NONPARTISAN AGENTS OF CHANGE

In 2018, the GCA National Affairs & Legislation (NAL) and Conservation committees regularly raised their voices on policy matters related to the GCA's purpose.

The committees proved both proactive and prescient in their support of the Botany Bills (see page 17) helping to shape the legislative provisions and gather a wide coalition of horticultural organizations in conjunction with the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Renewing its historic support for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the GCA wrote to both houses of Congress, opposing drilling in ANWR: "Drilling would irreversibly damage the wilderness and destroy important habitats such as lowland tundra, freshwater wetlands, and coastal marshes that are home to 61 plant families, over 200 bird species, 45 mammals, and 42 types of fish."

The committees advocated for strong conservation titles in the Farm Bill and continued protection of national monuments.

Through letters, official comments, and calls to action, the committees also opposed repeal of the Clean Water Rule and Clean Power Plan and called on the Interior Department to expend funds appropriated for native plant conservation.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATION CONFERENCE

"You can help Congress understand what clean air, clean water, and protecting public lands means for our communities. You are an important voice for these issues and can help bring people together from both sides of the aisle."

— Rep. Earl Blumenauer press release, describing GCA conference delegates

2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the GCA's National Affairs and Legislation Conference, with delegates representing 155 of the GCA's 200 clubs assembling in Washington, D.C. 300 GCA voices advocated for a common goal: to safeguard our environment.

The four-day conference opened with a welcome reception in the Ansel Adams Gallery at the Wilderness Society. Remarks from president Jamie Williams included advocacy training, presentation of key issues of concern, Capitol Hill briefings, and meetings with legislators. It was the 12th annual "carbon free meeting."

Topics on the docket for discussion were climate change, promoting botanists, grasslands protection, green infrastructure, and pesticide free gardening. Speakers included Elaine Chao, US Transportation Secretary; Hank and Wendy Paulson, Bobolink Foundation; economist Jeremy Grantham; entomologist Doug Tallamy; Jean M. Franczyk, CEO of Chicago Botanic Garden; Jay Leutze of Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy; and Diane Lewis, founder of The Great Healthy Yard Project. All addressed environmental challenges pertaining to the GCA's nine position papers and educated GCA delegates for effective nonpartisan issue-based advocacy.

GCA club members, wherever they are on the political spectrum, are empowered to be effective and informed advocates for the restoration, improvement, and protection of the environment.

CONSERVATION STUDY TRIP

Annually the GCA sponsors a conservation study trip concentrating on a particular ecological challenge. In September 2017, the focus was Lake Erie, its troubled past, continuing rehabilitation, and current state. 46 GCA club members from around the country assembled in Cleveland, Toledo, and other lake-side towns, meeting with scientists, guides, and speakers.

Phosphorus, primarily from agricultural runoff in the surrounding watershed, has led to annual blooms of cyanobacteria, commonly refered to as "blue-green algae." The "green slime" jeopardizes drinking water, is harmful to humans and wildlife, and negatively impacts recreation on the lake. While water quality has improved and wetland habitats have been restored, GCA attendees learned that more work is needed.

Highlights included a day excursion by boat to Stone Labs at Gibraltar Island, home to Ohio State's Sea Grant Program; a visit to the Black Swamp Bird Observatory; a guided tram ride through the Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge; and a farm-to-table dinner at Farmer Lee Jones' Culinary Institute.

POSITION PAPERS

The GCA has nine position papers which inform its environmental advocacy. Jointly produced by the NAL and Conservation committees and approved by the Executive Board, these papers summarize the GCA's legislative priorities and dictate guiding principles for legislative advocacy. In 2017, the GCA adopted its 9th paper — this one on Waste Management.

Many GCA clubs around the country embrace the position papers to frame and guide club meetings, speakers, youth outreach endeavors, book clubs, and civic projects. From grassroots efforts in individual clubs to national advocacy, GCA members continuously champion a healthy, productive environment.

The GCA's position papers cover Clean Air; Clean Water; Climate Change Action; National Parks; National Public Lands; Native Plants; Sustainable Agriculture, Seed Diversity, and Food Security; Transportation; and Waste Management

PROMOTING HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preserving historic buildings and gardens is vital to understanding our nation's history and heritage. From its earliest years, the GCA and GCA clubs have focused on historic preservation.

In 2018, these efforts were on particular display as the GCA championed the preservation of several beloved American landscapes.

Courtesy of Smithsonian Gardens. Eric Long, photographer

Enid A. Haupt Garden

GCA president Dede Petri testified before the National Capital Area Planning Commission and Commission of Fine Arts in opposition to the Smithsonian's planned destruction of the garden. Mrs. Haupt's grand-niece, a member of Georgetown Garden Club, also spoke publicly against the plans.

In a letter published in the *Washington Post*, the GCA made its position clear, reminding readers that "a deal is a deal," and arguing that the Smithsonian's plans to destroy the garden violated the expressed wishes of horticultural philanthropist Enid A. Haupt.

While the Smithsonian's South Campus Master Plan was approved, the debate over plans for the garden continues. The GCA will serve on a committee advising the Smithsonian on future construction, with an eye to preserving this iconic garden in the heart of the nation's capital.

Photo by Jennifer Radford, Garden Club of New Haven

Photo by Dede Petri, Georgetown Garden Club

Russell Page Garden

Close to the GCA's heart and headquarters, the Russell Page Garden at The Frick Collection has been the subject of GCA concern for decades. In 2014, the GCA opposed expansion plans which would have compromised the integrity of the historic green space.

Again in 2018, the GCA partnered with The Cultural Landscape Foundation, noted landscape architects, historians, and preservationists to oppose new plans which would alter the historic garden. The GCA submitted comments twice to the New York Landmarks Commission urging further study.

After years of negotiation, public hearings, protests, and compromise, the expansion plan received approval from the Commission. The final plan preserves most but not all of the garden.

Saving the Mount Vernon Viewshed

In early spring 2018, the GCA signed on as one of the founding members of the Coalition to Save George Washington's View along with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and The Cultural Landscape Foundation. Dominion Energy threatened to build a compressor station immediately across from George Washington's home, destroying the iconic Potomac River vista. Faced with public and private pressure, Dominion announced in late 2018 that it would not build the station and would look for an alternative site. The GCA and other opponents were successful in protecting the landscape for future generations.

In 2017, one of the GCA's earliest historic preservation efforts — the **Magnolia Tribute Garden at Independence Park,** Philadelphia — celebrated its own restoration with new plantings and a repaired irrigation system. The 10 GCA clubs in Philadelphia which sustain the garden hosted a special dedication ceremony, with remarks from the National Park Service Head of Independence Park and the GCA president.

Rowena Wilson, bursaries administrator with the RHS; 2016 RHS Interchange Fellow, Molly Hendry; and 2018 RHS Interchange Fellow, Brady Hedgecock at Great Dixter House & Gardens

PROMOTING COLLABORATIONS

The GCA knows that collaborations with like-minded organizations can produce tangible results. And in 2017-2018, the GCA formalized and renewed several agreements with organizations around the country whose initiatives dovetail with GCA priorities.

In 2018, the GCA entered into an agreement with Save the Redwoods League to serve as a Centennial Partner. For nearly 100 years, the GCA and SRL have worked together to save and restore endangered redwood trees along California's coast. The GCA highlighted SRL's work at its Annual Meeting flower show and honored the organization for invaluable conservation efforts on its 100th anniversary. The GCA also served on the Advisory Board of Seed Your Future, a national initiative to promote the power of plants for youth.

The GCA also entered into formal agreements with:

- the National Park Service renewing its Partners for Plants program;
- the Royal Horticultural Society renewing its RHS/Interchange Fellowship;
- the Smithsonian Institution, renewing its commitment to the Archives of American Gardens and GH&D Scholarship;
- the National Audubon Society, promoting mutual efforts to foster native plants and native birds, locally and nationally. National Audubon president David Yarnold addressed GCA leaders at Headquarters, praising the GCA for its leadership.

It continued its long-standing relationship with the New York Botanical Garden - LuEsther Mertz Library where the GCA's Rare Book Collection is on permanent deposit as well as GCA supporting organization Casey Trees, whose executive director addressed both the board and leadership.

PART THREE

Education and Leadership

Through numerous publications, a robust scholarship program, and a comprehensive online presence, the GCA offers extensive educational opportunities for its members, young scholars, and the broader community.

PUBLICATIONS

Five quarterly publications, created by volunteer committee members, are distributed to the GCA membership online and through email. Whether a member's interest lies in botanical arts or battery storage, a GCA publication is sure to enlighten.

The ***Bulletin***, the GCA's oldest publication, highlights GCA news from around the country. It is available quarterly in a hard copy and digital version.

Conservation Watch (ConWatch) showcases research by members of the Conservation Committee on topics ranging from green investing and climate change to battery storage. It also features news from individual clubs and a recommended reading list on environmental topics.

The online magazine, ***Focus,*** enhances the knowledge and enjoyment of photography and educates members in the photographic process, exhibiting, and judging.

The Real Dirt features in-depth articles and handy tips for gardeners of all levels.

By Design, the GCA's floral design magazine, highlights step-by-step arranging and cutting edge trends, serving as an excellent teaching and reference tool.

In 2018, the GCA made the publication available online at no cost to members; a print version is still offered by subscription.

eNews, the GCA's monthly electronic newsletter, connects GCA club members throughout the country via late-breaking announcements and current articles on committee and club activities. Exceptional photographs by members feature seasonal landscapes and horticulture.

Legislative Update keeps GCA clubs and their members informed online of national committee hearings, active bills, and administrative rule making relevant to the GCA's efforts. Published as needed and as news happens, GCA members have the latest pertinent news at their fingertips.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

In 2017-2018, the GCA expanded its public outreach and education through a dynamic new public page filled with news updates and environmental information for a broader audience. The page highlights club activities as well as the GCA's national award winners, mystery gardens, GCA history, and other current topics.

IDENTIFYING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS

Since 1928, the GCA has provided funding for hundreds of young scholars. 28 merit-based scholarships and fellowships are offered in 12 areas related to conservation, ecology, horticulture, and pollinator research. In 2018, more than $308,400 was awarded to 65 scholars — from 40 colleges and universities — whose projects include forest ecosystems management, the intersection of biodiversity and deforestation, and tidal marsh survival.

Promotion of the GCA's scholarship opportunities via Twitter has brought increased awareness of the GCA's outreach to college campuses. In addition, a GCA scholars' LinkedIn group has allowed the Scholarship Committee to maintain relationships with award recipients.

SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Knowing that impassioned teachers are vital to inspiring student interest in the environment, the GCA presented 8 Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Awards in 2018. The Hull Award is dedicated to educators who are teaching children to appreciate the beauty and fragility of our planet. Since 1993, the GCA has awarded 131 Hull awards around the country.

Each Hull recipient received a grant of $1000 to support work in fields ranging from estuarine ecology and beekeeping, to educational programming at botanic gardens and children's museums.

2018 Peacock Scholar Logan Maxwell researches fitness consequences of hybridization in Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows, threatened by sea-level rise

EDUCATING THROUGH FLOWER SHOWS

In 2017-2018, GCA flower shows took on a new mantle — not only as showcases for outstanding horticulture and design, but as powerful educational and outreach tools.

Changes approved by the Executive Board focused on simplifying the flower show process, furthering floral design education, and providing expanded benefits to the GCA's nearly 18,000 club members. In addition, plans were made to launch a stand-alone Floral Design Committee with 12 zone representatives in July 2018. With enhanced resources, opportunities for GCA club members include floral design education, zone workshops, and Floral Design Study Group workshops with notable designers from around the world.

The existing Flower Show Committee will focus its work and resources on clubs hosting flower shows, reading flower show schedules, evaluating flower shows, and collaborating with a wide array of GCA committees — Conservation, Floral Design, Garden History & Design, Horticulture, and Photography — to enrich the public offerings. Along with the Judging Committee, committee members will explore new ways to integrate special public and educational exhibits into the flower show and judging experience.

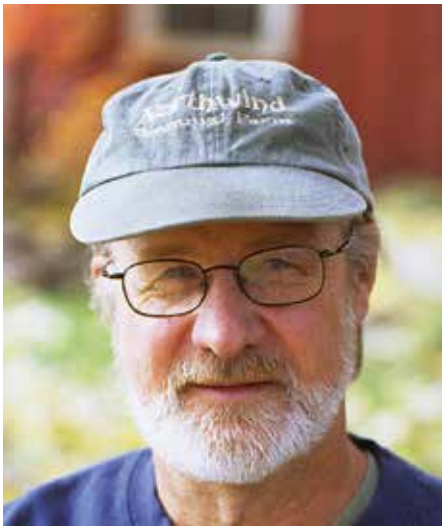
JUDGING

The GCA's 750 flower show judges worked diligently throughout the year to maintain and promote the GCA's standards of excellence. GCA judges play a critical role in furthering the GCA's mission of education — conducting workshops, serving as mentors to judges in training, and providing educational comments and awards to flower show participants. This year, 28 GCA flower shows were held around the country.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Each year, the GCA honors extraordinary leadership in gardening, botany, conservation, education, and landscape design by conferring honorary membership on men and women of distinction who are not members of a GCA club.

In 2018, three honorary memberships were bestowed at the annual meeting to individuals whose work serves as real inspiration.



Roy E. Diblik, Lake Geneva, WI, is the co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farm. He is renowned for sharing his knowledge of native perennials and landscape designs that emphasize Midwestern native plants and pollinators. In addition, his *Panicum virgatum* 'Northwind,' was named Perennial Plant of the Year in 2014 by the Perennial Plant Association.

Daniel J. Hinkley, Seattle, WA, is an intrepid plant explorer, prolific author and public speaker, horticulture consultant, and educator. He was the founder of Heronswood Nursery and is currently developing Windcliff Garden. His book *The Explorer's Garden: Shrubs and Vines from the Four Corners of the World*, received the 2010 Book of the Year Award from the American Horticultural Society.

William McNamara, Glen Ellen, CA, is executive director of Quarryhill Botanical Gardens. Over the years, McNamara has botanized extensively in Central China and other parts of Asia and has been instrumental in propagating species on the brink of extinction. He serves on the Horticulture Advisory Committee at the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum.

ZONE MEETINGS

Although the GCA is headquartered in New York City, the real lifeblood of the organization is, in so many ways, at the local level. 200 clubs, divided into 12 geographic zones across the country, independently design, implement, and undertake projects and meetings in keeping with the GCA purpose.

Local clubs every year host meetings, attended by local and national GCA leaders, which provide exceptional educational programming for members and a platform to honor club members and distinguished individuals in the community whose work furthers the GCA's purpose.

Clubs in eight regions hosted zone meetings in 2017–2018, guaranteeing the cross-pollination of ideas, visits to local and regional points of interest, and new friendships.

Rhode Island, Zone I
Little Compton Garden Club
"Where Stone Walls Meet the Sea" in Little Compton, RI. Little Compton's iconic stone walls offered a landscape and educational focus for meeting attendees.

Massachusetts, Zone I
Milton Garden Club
"Alchemy: The Magic of Nature" in Dedham, MA. The elements of nature — earth, wind, fire, water — were used as starting points to spark creativity.

Connecticut, Zone II
New Canaan Garden Club
"Iconic Style: A Design Legacy" in New Canaan, CT. Club members focused on the power of photography and landscape design.

New York, Zone III
Lake and Valley Garden Club
"What's Brewing" in Cooperstown, NY. Delegates learned about the area's history of growing hops, the ecology of Otsego Lake, and, of course, the Baseball Hall of Fame.

New Jersey, Zone IV
Rumson Garden Club
"Greetings from the Jersey Shore" in Middletown, NJ. Notable speakers brought attention to the beaches and coastal marshes of New Jersey.

North Carolina, Zone VII
Twin City Garden Club
"Cultivating a Lasting Legacy" in Winston-Salem, NC. Attendees explored historic sites including Old Salem Museums & Gardens and Reynolda House.

Georgia, Zone VIII
Trustees' Garden Club
"Parks, Pines, & Preservation" in Savannah, GA. The meeting showcased Savannah's rich history and the region's commitment to the preservation of historic homes and parks.

Tennessee, Zone IX
Knoxville Garden Club
"Luminations" in Knoxville, TN. Knoxville area treasures, including the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum, Knoxville Museum of Art, and Blackberry Farm were on display.

Illinois, Zone XI
Garden Guild of Winnetka
"Glaciers to Gardens" in Chicago, IL. Geological features and historic landscapes inspired examination of local flora and fauna.

CLUB PRESIDENTS SURVEY

Here are the facts about the GCA's 200 clubs:

84% worked with a local or community garden

36% worked in or with school gardens

53% supported gardens surrounding a historic site

46% offered programs for youth or underserved populations (such as summer camps and propagation training for inmates)

64% offered public lectures, conferences, educational workshops, and programs

42% offered a photography show or demonstration for the public

50% planted trees, adding more than 4,000 new trees in the past year

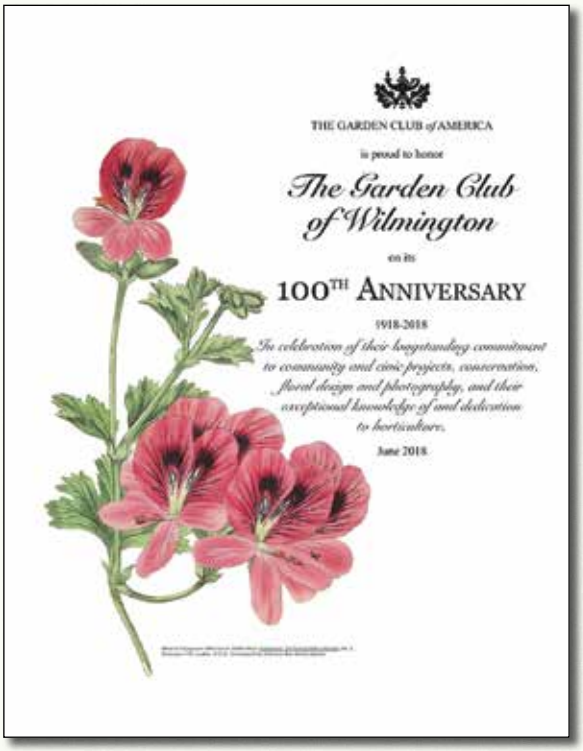
79% propagated plants

68% removed invasives

82% planted natives or wildflowers

72% worked on pollinator gardens

45% worked in local, regional, or national parks



THE GARDEN CLUB of AMERICA

is proud to honor

The Garden Club of Wilmington

on its

100TH ANNIVERSARY

1918-2018

In celebration of their longstanding commitment to community and civic projects, conservation, floral design and photography, and their exceptional knowledge of and dedication to horticulture.

June 2018

The Garden Club of Wilmington reached its 100th year and was awarded this newly-designed certificate in June of 2018.

Combined, clubs donated approximately **$700,000** in local grants, scholarships, and internships. They reported donations of over **$5 million** to civic/community projects.

When it comes to club activities:

82% partnered with other groups in their efforts

93% took field trips

53% hosted flower shows for the public

23% produced a book, publication, or guide

74% had a regular online newsletter

38% had a social media presence

32% undertook oral histories of their members

Paducah Garden Club members tend to their monarch waystation at Whitehaven Welcome Center

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Over 3,400 books on topics relating to the GCA's purpose are available for use at GCA Headquarters. For the first time, all GCA club members gained access to books and reference materials through the Library's searchable online database.

Many writers, illustrators, documentarians, photographers, and editors are GCA club members or honorary members with works in the collection. This year, the GCA was fortunate to add new books donated by club members and friends, as well as several outstanding volumes written by club members who spoke about their books at GCA Headquarters: *Heroes of Horticulture: Americans Who Transformed the Landscape* by Barbara Paul Robinson, Litchfield Garden Club; *Listen to the Land: Creating a Southern Woodland Garden*, by Louise Agee Wrinkle, Little Garden Club of Birmingham; and *All the Presidents' Gardens*, by Marta McDowell, Garden Club of Madison.

EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY: THE GCA's GALLERY AND MEETING ROOM

Complementing the library collection is the GCA's Gallery and Meeting Room where activities and achievements of GCA committees and club members have a new home.

2017-2018, rotating exhibits included:

- "Visiting Gardens: Inspirational Travel with the GCA," curated by Betty Snellings, Ridgefield Garden Club, highlighting trips to Cuba, Sweden, Tuscany, and Portugal.
- Eloise Payne Luquer, curated by Donna Ganson, Garden Club of Lawrence, offering color reproductions of Luquer's botanical drawings which are in the collection of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.
- "Focus on the Freeman," curated by the Photography and Horticulture committees featuring photos of the GCA's Plant of the Year.
- "From the Mountain: Works of Angela Overy," curated by Lindsay Dodge, Garden Club of Denver.

Hurricane Irma's destruction of the gardens and grounds at the Cummer Museum; Jacksonville, FL, August 2017

PART THREE

Civic Improvement and Restoration

The Garden Club of America is committed to restoring, improving, and protecting the quality of the environment. In ways large and small, the GCA is working across the country to assist communities with civic improvement and restoration projects in furtherance of its purpose.

RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Whether it is in New York, Florida, Texas, or Oregon, communities are facing natural disasters which threaten treasured landscapes. This is not a regional problem; it is a national, even global, challenge. Numerous scientific studies document the increasing incidence of severe storms and a changing climate.

That's why the GCA Executive Board introduced an urgent new program in 2017, the Restoration Initiative.

Much like Save the Redwoods in the GCA's first century, the Restoration Initiative offers a natural organizing framework in its second century. Restoration requires an understanding of the interdependence of horticulture, environmental protection, and community improvement. It harnesses the GCA's ongoing work and aligns with the GCA's purpose "to restore, improve and protect the environment."

We are "thinking progressively about creating a more resilient landscape that is respectful to its historic significance. To honor the historic character of the site while making improvements that correct storm-related damage and better prepare the site to withstand future storm events. We are committed to creating a sustainable and river-friendly landscape."
— Late Bloomers Garden Club, Zone VIII

This year, five GCA clubs received $10,000 each to help underwrite public garden restoration costs necessitated by natural disasters. As in other grant programs, direct club involvement in restoration efforts is expected. With projects in Florida, Georgia, Oregon, and Texas, the national impact is tangible.

HOUSTON, TX, The Garden Club of Houston — to renovate boxwood plantings and other Gulf Coast species at the Mercer Botanic Gardens devastated by Hurricane Harvey.

BEAUMONT, TX, Magnolia Garden Club — to install feral hog-proof fencing and restore the hurricane-ravaged Monarch Butterfly Waystation, Pollinator Garden, and Grandmother's Garden at the Beaumont Botanical Garden, the oldest public garden in southeast Texas.

JACKSONVILLE, FL, Late Bloomers Garden Club — to fund new plants and work toward reconstruction of the Italian Garden at Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, which suffered unprecedented flooding during Hurricane Irma.

PORTLAND, OR The Portland Garden Club — to reintroduce native ground covers to the Columbia River Gorge in collaboration with the Oregon State Parks. This is the largest natural scenic area in the United States with the greatest concentration of natural waterfalls. In 2017, the Eagle Creek fire badly damaging scenic trails, burning most of the native groundcover, and leaving the area highly vulnerable to invasive species.

SAVANNAH, GA, Trustees' Garden Club — to proceed with historically appropriate plantings in Forsyth Park in conjunction with city restoration efforts. In 2016 and again in 2017, the park, one of the oldest in the country, was battered by Hurricanes Matthew and Irma.

FOUNDERS FUND GRANTS

Since 1936, the GCA has annually provided Founders Fund grants to worthy community projects around the country. Established in memory of the GCA's first president, Elizabeth Price Martin, Founders Fund grants, totaling $50,000, are presented each year to three projects proposed by and voted on by all 200 GCA clubs. To date, the GCA has provided nearly $2 million in funds to 88 projects.

The 2018 grantees will benefit over 1,700 children and adults in underserved communities in Illinois, Arkansas, and Massachusetts.

2018 WINNER

A Therapeutic Garden: Nurturing Plants and Enriching Minds, Misericordia
Sponsored by Kenilworth Garden Club

Misericordia provides care to over 600 children and adults with developmental disability. Funds will be used to construct a therapeutic garden including a wheelchair / walker accessible path, raised workspaces for horticultural therapy, and areas for garden activity and vocational training.

2018 RUNNERS UP

Dunbar Garden Kitchen Classroom
Sponsored by Little Rock Garden Club

The Dunbar Garden kitchen classroom will provide a workspace to engage the community's 800 youth and adult participants in hands-on educational experiences.

Roots Rising: A Food Truck and Financial Sustainability
Sponsored by Lenox Garden Club

Funding will help finance a food truck in Pittsfield, MA, to serve as a mobile classroom, work site, and business incubator.

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

How the West is ONE
2018
The Garden Club of America
Annual Meeting

"How the West is One" was the theme as 625 attendees convened in San Francisco for the 2018 GCA Annual Meeting, hearing from trailblazers in the fields of civic improvement, conservation, and restoration.

Keynote speakers included: Sam Hodder, Executive Director, Save the Redwoods League; Thomas L. Woltz, Principal, Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects; Jonathan Foley, PhD, president of the California Academy of Sciences; and GCA scholarship recipient Joanna Nelson, PhD, from LandSea Science. Hodder reminded GCA members that a partnership forged 85 years ago between Save the Redwoods League and the GCA set in motion a transformational movement.

"When our hands, our hearts, and our minds are all engaged, then we and 18,000 of you can change the world."
—Thomas Woltz

With a nod to the past and a look to the future, former GCA president Katie Heins, who spearheaded the GCA's Bridge the Gap redwoods campaign, and current GCA President Dede Petri planted a baby redwood at the entrance to the GCA Redwood Grove in Humboldt State Park.

MEDALISTS

Since 1920, the GCA has awarded medals for outstanding achievement in fields related to its purpose: horticulture, botany, conservation, historic preservation, environmental protection, flower arrangement, landscape design, and literature. At the 2018 Annual Meeting, eleven exemplary men, women, and organizations were recognized for positively impacting our lives and the environment. These medalists serve as inspiration for community action, education, and civic improvement.

Margaret Douglas Medal

Diana Barrow, Trustees' Garden Club, and **Craig Barrow** of Savannah, GA, for the creation of The Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History. The Institute provides opportunities for research and service.

Achievement Medal

Former First Lady Laura Bush, Founders Garden Club of Dallas, for her work protecting the environment and natural resources. Mrs. Bush's initiatives include Texan by Nature and the urban park at the George W. Bush Presidential Library.

Historic Preservation Medal

Stephen F. Byrns, Yonkers, NY, for his extraordinary vision and inspiring efforts to rescue Untermyer Gardens and restore them to their former splendor. Annual visitation at Untermyer Gardens has grown from 5,000 to 70,000 over the course of 6 years, and the city of Yonkers has received a much needed boost in tourism and engagement thanks to Byrns' dedicated efforts.

Natalie Peters Webster Medal

Polly Pierce, Noanett Garden Club in Massachusetts, for finding unusual plant material, encouraging its creative use, and assuring its availability. Pierce has been a dedicated champion of wildflowers and their conservation.

The Cynthia Pratt Laughlin Medal

San Francisco's Save the Bay for outstanding achievement in environmental protection and the maintenance of the quality of life. For 57 years, Save the Bay's members and supporters have worked to balance the needs of the environment with the demands of Bay Area residents.

Elizabeth Craig Weaver Proctor Medal

Save the Redwoods League for exemplary service and creative vision by a non-member in a field related to the GCA's special interests. For 100 years, the League has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the protection and restoration of ancient coast redwood and giant sequoia forests.

Katharine Thomas Cary Medal

Mary Jo Strawbridge, The Garden Workers, for outstanding achievement in floral design education. Strawbridge is a cornerstone of the GCA's Floral Design Committee who shares her expertise through lectures, workshops, and articles in *By Design.*

The Bonnylin Woods Martin Medal

Virginia L. Tietjens, Huntingdon Valley Garden Club, for innovative floral design. Tietjens's creativity and astonishing artistry in floral design have inspired many young designers for over four decades.

GCA Medal of Honor

Charles R. "Chipper" Wichman, Jr., Kauai, Hawaii, in recognition of his outstanding service to horticulture. Wichman is an internationally-recognized voice for conservation and sustainability, lauded for his leadership at the National Tropical Botanical Garden, and his preservation of tropical plants and their habitats.

Elvira Broome Doolan Medal

Thomas L. Woltz, Charlottesville, VA, for innovative work in landscape architecture with an emphasis on urban planning and civic improvement. Woltz's projects in cities across the U.S. have greatly improved the lives of people while honoring the histories of the landscapes on which he works.

Photo by Linder Suthers, Trustees' Garden Club

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